

TARGET AUDIENCE

Professionals in child welfare and juvenile justice, including social workers, juvenile court officers, attorneys, judges, human service agencies, social service providers, counselors, the courts, Head Start, corrections, the faith community, business partners, and family members—both mothers and fathers.

CONFERENCE FEE

NONE. This is a FREE Conference, but Pre-Registration is required. Registration will be limited to the first 250 registrants. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please register no later than May 13, 2008.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone number: (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Send your registration by May 13, 2008, to Morgan Streeter by e-mail to: **fathersmatter2@q.com** or by mail to:

**John R Grubb YMCA
1611 – 11th Street
Des Moines, IA 50314
Attention: Morgan Streeter**

CEUs

We have reviewed the continuing education criteria established by the Iowa Board of Social Work Examiners. This training qualifies for 7.0 CEU's.

ABOUT THE POLK COUNTY FATHERS AND FAMILY COALITION

The Coalition formed in 2003 as a broad-based group representative of business, faith and community based organizations, human services agencies, corrections, education and Head Start within Polk County. The Coalition is dedicated to engaging fathers to become involved and remain active in the lives of their children, whenever it is safe and healthy for them to do so, thereby creating a community where all children grow up in strong, healthy relationships with both of their parents.

CONFERENCE FOCUS

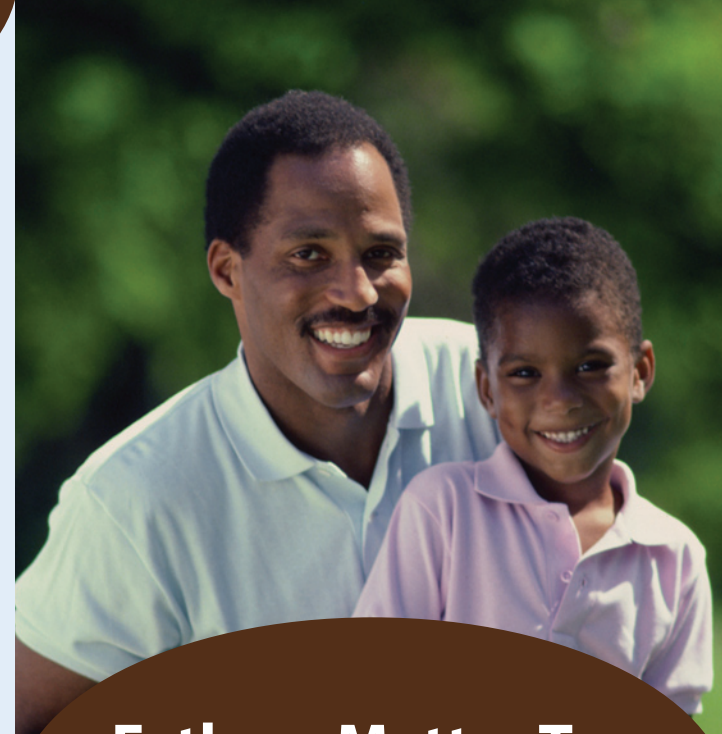
1. Raise awareness about fatherhood and the impact the crisis of fatherlessness is having on our community;
2. Share information and stimulate ideas about changes individuals and organizations can make in their programs/practice;
3. Raise awareness about available resources, including the faith community, and identify gaps in services and resources; and
4. Gather comments and input from participants to utilize for future strategic planning by the Polk County Fathers and Families Coalition.

CONFERENCE FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

YMCA of Greater Des Moines
Polk County Decategorization/DHS
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Drake University Head Start

PARKING

Parking is available in the Olmsted Center parking lot on the north side of University Avenue, between 28th and 31st Street. If the lot is full, street parking is available. Validation for the Olmsted parking lot will be available at registration.



Fathers Matter Too

A Father's Place in Strengthening Families



May 15, 2008
Drake University
Olmsted Center
Des Moines, IA

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION**
- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Welcome & Overview of the Day**
Kevin Concannon, Director, Iowa Department of Human Services;
Mike Carver, Polk County Fathers and Families Coalition
- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Like the Elephants: How A Nurturing Father Can Influence Positive Outcomes In Children**
Mark Perlman, Author, Consultant, and Trainer, Sarasota, FL.
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **Reactor Panel**
Adrienne Windley,
Young Women's Resource Center;
Sam Carrell, Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa
- 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. **BREAK**
- 10:00 – 10:50 a.m. **Making Room for Dad: Engaging Fathers in Services**
Neil Tift, Director of Operations of the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association, Mesa, AZ

*LUNCHEON PANEL: Engaging Fathers—What's Happening in Polk County

Moderator: Mike Canney, Polk County Fathers and Families Coalition. Panel: Darby Taylor, Visiting Nurses; Tony Wilson, Making Connections; Vernon Delpesce, YMCA of Greater Des Moines; Paul Harrison, Reentry AfterCare; Mike Hartwig, Marriage Matters of Iowa; Don Nickerson, Iowa District Court Judge; Ed Nichols, Missionary

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mark Perlman, MA. Mark Perlman is an author, consultant, and trainer from Sarasota, FL. He has worked with parents, children and families for more than 30 years. Mark is the proud father of two grown sons, Jaime and Corey. He is the past executive Director of the Family Counseling Center, the Child Protection Center, and the Fathers United Network of Sarasota, Florida. He is the author of *The Nurturing Father's Program*, a 13-week curriculum which has become a national model for helping men learn the skills and attitudes for nurturing. He also recently authored a book entitled *A Nurturing Father's Journal* which is a workbook format created to engage men/fathers in an interactive process to explore and strengthen their nurturing skills.

Neil Tift. Neil Tift is the Director of Operations of the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA) of Mesa, Arizona. Mr. Tift previously served as Director of Professional Advancement for the National Practitioners Network for Fathers and Families in which his duties included staff training, technical assistance, and consultation to support the development and programs for local, state, and national organizations and governmental agencies. He is a licensed family mediator. He is the father of three and grandfather of five.

Lisa Nitsch. Lisa is the Gateway Project Program Manager at the House of Ruth Maryland. The Gateway Project is the abuser intervention service of the domestic violence prevention agency. Lisa oversees the day-to-day operation of the program and coordinates new program initiatives to improve the quality and scope of services. She was a principle driving force in the philosophical shift and functional redesign of the program from 'The Batters' Program' to 'The Gateway Project' in 2003. Mrs. Nitsch currently serves as the Vice President of Women In Fatherhood, Inc., is an active member of the Maryland Regional Practitioner's Network for Fathers & Families Board of Directors, is a member of Baltimore City's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and the city's Coordinating Council, and is Co-Chair of the Maryland Abuser Intervention Collaborative. Lisa demonstrates strength in creating community partnerships among programs that have historically had conflicting agendas and provides technical assistance in this area to programs across the country.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 10:50 – 11:00 a.m. **Reactor Panel**
Jerry Bartruff, Department of Corrections;
Wendy Rickman, DHS
- 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. **Question & Answer**
Mark Perlman and Neil Tift
- 11:30 – 11:45 a.m. **PICK UP LUNCH**
- 11:45 – 12:45 p.m. ***Luncheon Panel**
- 12:45 – 1:00 p.m. **Transition Time**
- 1:00 – 1:50 p.m. **Screening For & Addressing Domestic Violence**
Lisa Nitsch, House of Ruth, Baltimore, MD
- 1:50 – 2:00 PM **Reactor Panel**
Morgan Streeter, Fatherhood Initiative of Polk County;
Sandy Smith, Polk County Family Violence Center
- 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Question & Answer**
Lisa Nitsch
- 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. **BREAK**
- 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. **Round Table Discussion & Reports**
- 3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Call to Action**
Mark Perlman, Neil Tift, and Lisa Nitsch
- 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. **Conclusion**
Vernon Delpesce, YMCA of Greater Des Moines

POLK COUNTY FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE SPONSORS

Annie E. Casey Foundation

EMC Insurance Companies

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Polk County Community Development Grant

Prairie Meadows Grant

Principal Financial Group Foundation

Greater Des Moines Community Foundation

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YMCA of Greater Des Moines

